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Wednesday, December 5, 2012

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Charges laid in 3 murders

White Boy Posse.

Arrests made in case of decapitated head found in Edmonton alley in October

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca

Four men, believed to be connected to a street gang known as White Boy Posse, have been charged with first-degree murder in connection to three homicides.

The partial remains of Robert John Roth Sr., 54, were found in Ranfurly on Oct. 20, and his decapitated head was found days later in an Edmonton alley.

Lorry Santos was shot and killed in Saskatoon on Sept. 12 and 35-year-old Bryan Gower was murdered in Kitscoty on Sept. 25.

On Tuesday, officers

from the RCMP, Edmonton Police Service Homicide Section, the Saskatoon Police Service and the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) gathered to announce the charges in Edmonton.

Insp. Jerry Scott, officer in charge of K Division RCMP Major Crimes Unit, called the homicides "shocking" and said the investigations into the murders will continue.

"These arrests send a strong message to those who chose to engage in criminal activity," he said.

Supt. Ted Miles, CEO of ALERT, said the White Boy Posse gang has been on ALERT's radar for a number of years.

"Obviously organized crime is really about the money," he said.

Aside from Santos, who police believe was a case of mistaken identity, the homicide victims and accused knew each other and were connected by drugs.

Kyle Halbauer faces charges in the death of Gower and Santos.

Randy O'Hagan faces charges in the death of Santos, Gower and Roth. Nikolas Nowitzky faces charges in the murder of Roth and Joshua Petrin faces charges in the murder of Santos.



Supt. Ted Miles, CEO of ALERT, left, Insp. Jerry Scott with the RCMP Major Crimes Unit, Insp. Rick Penny with the Saskatoon Police Service and Insp. Kevin Brezinski, Edmonton Police Service Homicide Section, speak to the media on Tuesday at RCMP Headquarters in Edmonton. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Quoted

"It's rare to arrest and charge people with multiple counts of homicides at different times."

Insp. Jerry Scott, officer in charge of K Division RCMP Major Crimes Unit



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Bit of a stretch?

Yoga courses could be offered in Edmonton high schools

High school students in Edmonton public schools may soon receive credit for the downward-facing dog.

Victoria School and Ross Sheppard High School have both expressed interest in offering Yoga 15 and Yoga 25 courses to students, according to Stephen Wright, a supervisor in projects and research with the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB).

Wright said as long as the Board of Trustees accepts a recommendation to offer the courses, any school within the district could start offering for-credit yoga in the second semester, which starts in February.

"I've never had a course in my history been rejected. We don't take things to the trustees that we think are bad," he said.

The three-credit courses have already been developed by the Calgary Board of Education, and are taught at high schools in Calgary.

Wright said while each district develops their own courses, districts work together to share courses that are already developed.

The Yoga 15 and Yoga 25 courses would more than likely be taught by a staff member who is a certified yoga teacher, said Wright.

The general education of the yoga courses include understanding the historical roots of yoga as an art, science and philosophy.

ANNA LISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

For more local news go to metronews.ca



Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht speaks with reporters after making his pitch to city council for an additional \$6.5 million in funding for more detectives, patrol officers and officers to transport prisoners. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

City wants help with police budget

Running on empty. Province, feds should be handing over more cash: Councillors

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

City councillors expressed frustration, Tuesday, with the lack of support from the provincial and federal government to help fund rising costs for the Edmonton Police Service.

Edmonton Police Chief Rod Knecht made his case to council, as part of the 2013 budget presentations, for an additional \$6.5 mil-

lion in funding on top of the \$13 million the police budget is already rising.

Knecht said he needs the additional funds to put paramedics in downtown jail cells as several provincial fatality reports have recommended, as well to hire provincial sheriffs to transport prisoners to the new Edmonton Remand Centre on the edge of the city.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said the rising costs were coming because of the provincial and federal government, but Edmonton was being asked to pay for them.

"There is a tremendous amount of pressure on, but the same amount of pressure is not felt by the province and the federal government, who

are actually driving these costs," said Sohi.

Knecht said the department is conscious of the cost pressures the city faces, but felt they had a responsibility to put forward a request for what they need to keep the city safe.

"We only put forward 29 positions because that is exactly what we need; not 28, and not 30," he said.

Mayor Stephen Mandel said he understands the requests, but the city needs help to pay for them.

"We have a great police department and a great chief, but we have to find a better way to fund cities, and it shouldn't always be on the backs of property taxpayers."

Police ask

- **Big chunk.** If the \$6.5 million is approved, nearly two thirds of the proposed tax increase will be related to police services in the budget.
- **Unsolved homicides.** There have been 124 unsolved homicides since 2001. Knecht said some of those could be solved if the police had more resources to devote.

Council will vote on the request for more funds, along with dozens of other budget motions next week.

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Reporters in Edmonton monitor the inquiry in an overflow room during the testimony of former AHS head Dr. Stephen Duckett on Tuesday. Duckett testified via video from Australia. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Ex-health boss names Sherman in inquiry

No response. Alberta Liberal leader refused to comment until he testifies

The former chief executive of Alberta's health super-board says he took flak from provincial politicians for not having "fix-it" people in place to help some get preferential access to care.

But when Stephen Duckett was asked to name names on Tuesday, he could come up with only one.

"A number of MLAs, but amongst others that I recall was Raj Sherman," Duckett told the public inquiry looking into queue-jumping in Alberta.

An emergency-room doc-

tor by trade and a former parliamentary assistant health minister in the government, Sherman has been a central defender of Alberta's health care.

He was bounced from the Tories for his criticism of the system and went on to become Liberal leader. As leader of the Grits, he was one of the most prominent politicians calling for the inquiry.

Lawyer Michele Hollins pressed Duckett for more.

There were some rural members of the legislature, Duckett said, but Sherman's was the only name he could recall.

"I can't remember the names of them, sorry," Duckett said.

Requests for an interview with Sherman were denied through the party. His staff

Star witness

- Stephen Duckett is a key witness at the inquiry, which was called by Premier Alison Redford last February before the provincial election in the face of criticism from the opposition.
- An Australian who was recruited by the province, Duckett took over as CEO of Alberta Health Services — the delivery arm of health care in the province — in March 2009.

said he would address the allegations when he testifies himself next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homicide victim was high-risk: Documents

ANNALISE
KLINGBEIL

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The victim of Edmonton's 26th homicide had alcohol and drug problems and a history of criminal friends and associates, according to Parole Board documents obtained by Metro.

While few details have emerged about Aden Ahmed, who was stabbed to death in the community of Alberta Avenue on Nov. 19 after an alleged fight between several

men, documents show Ahmed was said to pose a high risk for future violence.

The 23-year-old had a criminal past and spent time in prison for stabbing someone.

Parole Board documents from 2011 show Ahmed had trouble making curfew and, while on release, broke conditions to abstain from drugs and alcohol and to avoid people involved in criminal activity.

The documents say Ahmed had a "substantial alcohol problem" that was linked to his

criminal past.

A psychological risk assessment confirmed that Ahmed met the criteria to be considered a psychopath.

In September 2008, Ahmed severed a man's artery with a knife and stabbed him in the buttocks at the back of an Ottawa bus, according to news articles from the time.

He was sentenced to four years in prison, which was reduced, and banned from possessing weapons for life in 2010.

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Mike Palpe works the grill at Coliseum Pizza & Steak, which is not far from Rexall Place. Newly-released credit card data shows restaurants near Canadian arenas have suffered during the NHL lockout. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Restaurants, bars hit hard by lockout: Moneris

Credit card data.

Fast-food joints around Rexall Place saw a 27% drop, according to Canada's largest debit and credit card processor

RYAN TUMILTY

ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Hockey fans aren't the only ones suffering in the NHL lockout — new credit card data shows that restaurants and bars are also seeing a big drop.

Moneris, Canada's largest debit and credit card processor, tracked spending around arenas in Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton

Cancellation

422

The NHL has cancelled 422 games since the lockout began, including the Winter Classic and the All-Star game.

and found a noticeable 11 per cent decline on game days.

Rexall Place's location outside of the downtown core made it a little more difficult for tracking, according to Moneris, but fast-food restaurants saw a 27 per cent decline.

Albertan's spending is generally on the rise and Malcolm Fowler, vice-president of marketing at Moneris, said the numbers show a clear lockout effect.

"If you move a little bit further away from the arenas, we actually saw a modest spending increase, probably in line with the increase that has been seen broadly in Alberta."

Peter Varvis, co-owner of Coliseum Pizza and Steak, said he estimates about a 10-per cent decline in sales.

"It's down a little bit, but nothing to worry about," he said.

Varvis said there is still a lot going on at nearby Rexall Place, but Oilers games, when his place is generally packed, are hard to replace.

"They have covered it with the young guys, the Oil Kings and a few extra concerts, but we miss the guys," he said. "Every customer that comes in here misses them."

Weather, construction surprises. Jasper to remain two-lanes until October 2013

Jasper Avenue will remain a two-lane road through the winter months and all the way until October 2013.

The two-year facelift of the road along with repairs to the roof of the Central LRT station was to ease up between November and March, allowing the road to re-open to four lanes, but weather and construction surprises have forced crews to push through the winter.

City officials said historical information on the LRT

station, which was built in the 1970s turned out to be not as accurate as they hoped leading to unwelcome surprises.

"We ended up with some surprises, some redesigns and some changes had to take place," said Paul Szczepanski, director of arterial roadways.

Szczepanski said not opening the road up will ensure the project doesn't get pushed into 2014.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Construction crews will work all through winter on Jasper Avenue. METRO FILE



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Not guilty! Soldier, wife share a long embrace

Kandahar blast killed one. Reservist cleared of manslaughter and breach of duty, but he's found guilty on negligence charge

A Canadian reservist has been found not guilty of manslaughter in an Afghan training accident that killed one soldier and injured four others more than two years ago.

A military jury at a court martial in Calgary also acquitted Maj. Darryl Watts of breach of duty.

But the five jurors, all senior officers in the Canadian Forces, convicted him of unlawfully causing bodily harm and negligent performance of military duty.

Quoted

"I feel very strongly in the man's innocence."

Defence lawyer Balfour Der

formance of military duty.

Watts, who stood at attention while the verdict was being read, shared a long embrace with his wife once the court had adjourned.

The courtroom at the Mevata Armoury in Calgary, where the trial was held, was jammed with military personnel.

The maximum sentence for unlawfully causing bodily harm is imprisonment of up to 10 years. Negligent performance of duty can bring dismissal with disgrace from the Canadian Forces.

Cpl. Josh Baker died when a Claymore anti-personnel mine loaded with 700 steel balls peppered the platoon on a practice range near Kandahar city in February 2010.

The prosecution had argued that Watts, the platoon leader, turned a blind eye to safety standards and abdicated his duty as a leader when he handed over responsibility to his second-in-command, who was an expert on the weapon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Maj. Darryl Watts, pictured heading to court last month, has been found not guilty of manslaughter in a fatal Afghanistan training accident.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN aftermath. After big debate, Tories won't cut aid to the Palestinians

The Harper government pledged Tuesday night to preserve millions of dollars in Canadian aid to the Palestinians.

The issue was discussed during a 90-minute meeting in Ottawa involving Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino and four envoys called home for talks.

Baird had recalled them to discuss a response to the Palestinians' new United Nations status.

Baird's spokesperson said Tuesday night that Canada's five-year, \$300-million commitment would be maintained when it expires in March. The

World outsiders

Canada strongly opposed the Palestinians' successful effort last week to win elevated status at the UN.

- **Almost alone.** Canada was one of only nine countries to vote against the Palestinians in the 193-nation General Assembly.

money goes toward strengthening the Palestinian justice system, economic development, health and education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health Canada acts

Food testing lab's licence suspended

Health Canada has yanked the licence of a Toronto-area chemical testing laboratory.

The watchdog says it found falsified results in tests involving medications, natural food products and

food additives. It says in some cases, Chemi Pharmaceutical did not test drug ingredients.

The agency said there is no evidence the health of Canadians has been compromised. Chemi Pharmaceutical did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Indonesia. Divorced via text message, second wife, 17, 'not a virgin'

Hundreds of Indonesians rallied Tuesday to demand a district chief's resignation after revelations of his text-message divorce to a teenage girl four days after their marriage.

The incident has sparked public outrage.

Aceng Fikri, chief of Garut District in West Java province, took 17-year-old Fani Oktora as his second wife in July.

But Fikri, 40, quickly divorced her via a short text message, alleging Oktora was not a virgin when they married as he had expected. He said he spent about \$26,000 on the wedding.

Students and rights activists in Garut spit and trampled on pictures of Fikri on Tuesday before burning them outside the local council building.

It was the second consecutive day of protests against Fikri, whose case came into the spotlight last week after a picture was posted on the Internet.

On Monday, dozens of people rallied in front of his house and the council building.

Divorce by text

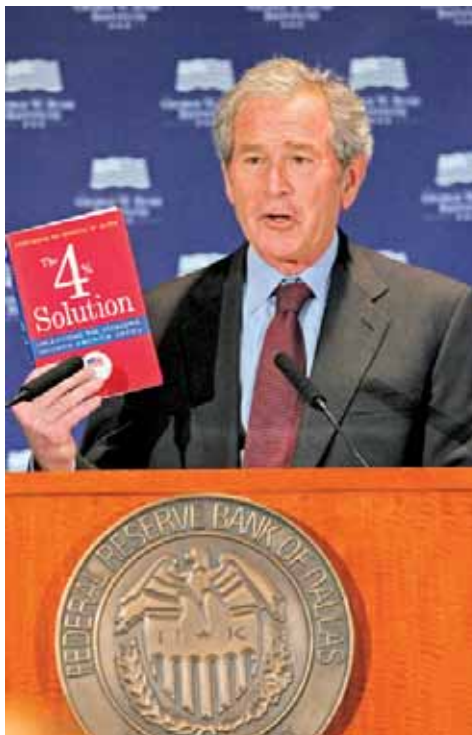
Some Muslims believe in an Islamic ritual allowing men to end a marriage by telling their wives they divorce them. However, divorce by text message is uncommon in moderate Indonesia.

Late Tuesday, the local council issued a recommendation for Fikri's dismissal, but the process will have to wait for a verdict by the Supreme Court.

Also on Tuesday, Oktora, accompanied by her lawyers, filed a complaint with police in the capital, Jakarta, accusing Fikri of domestic violence by holding her captive after the wedding and fraudulence for declaring that he was a widower.

A lawyer representing Fikri said they would file a complaint of defamation against Oktora, whom he said had signed an agreement saying she would not complain about the marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bush talks immigration

Former U.S. president George W. Bush holds up a book Tuesday as he gives opening remarks at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas for a conference called Immigration and 4% Growth: How Immigrants grow the U.S. Economy. LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Judge upholds ban on therapy to change sexual orientation

For the second time in two days, a federal judge in California has issued a decision on the state's first-of-its-kind law prohibiting licensed psychotherapists from trying to change the sexual orientations of gay minors.

U.S. District Judge Kimberly Mueller issued a ruling Tuesday that will allow the ban on "conversion" therapy to take effect on January 1.

Her ruling came in a lawsuit filed by four counsellors, two families, a professional

organization for practitioners and a Christian therapist group seeking to overturn the law.

On Monday night, Mueller's colleague, U.S. District Judge William Shubb, handed down a somewhat competing ruling.

Shubb granted a request by two mental health providers and a former patient to be immune from the law until their lawsuit seeking to overturn it on U.S. First Amendment grounds can be heard next year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tuscan vineyard

16,500 gallons of prized wine lost

It's suspected that vandals have dumped almost the entire 2007-2012 production of one of Italy's most sought-after wines Soldera Brunello di Montalcino. Vineyard owner Giuseppe Soldera said Tuesday only "a little bit" remained of the production, and he wasn't sure what he would do with it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Carolina

Prison warden investigated

The warden at a prison in the U.S. state of North Carolina where six inmates allege correctional officers forced them to rub hot sauce on their genitals has been suspended pending the outcome of an investigation. A second employee also has been reassigned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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John McAfee seeks asylum in Guatemala

On the lam. Founder of anti-virus company fled Belize fearing death in police custody

Software company founder John McAfee has surfaced in public for the first time in weeks, saying on Tuesday that he plans to ask for asylum in Guatemala because he fears persecution in Belize.

McAfee spoke to The Associated Press in a restaurant near a high-end hotel where he is staying in Guatemala City after sneaking out of neighbouring Belize. Police in Belize have called him a person of interest in the November slaying of a fellow American expat.

McAfee says he is being persecuted by the Belizean government and has sensitive information about official corruption in the country where

Real-world security

"I need a safe place where I can actually speak out."

Anti-virus company founder John McAfee

he lived in a compound guarded by aggressive dogs and armed guards.

"Now that I'm here, I can speak freely. I can speak openly," McAfee said.

He said he plans to petition the Guatemalan government to allow him to stay. He added that he fears he will be killed if he turns himself in for questioning in Belize.

"Belize does not have a good track record of providing safety when they ask to question you," he said. "I felt much more secure crossing the border into a country that had laws that were backed by the justice system."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



John McAfee, left, with his lawyer, Telesforo Guerra, answers questions at a restaurant in Guatemala City on Tuesday. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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\$250. Fee may vary depending upon type of property and location. For 2.99%, 3 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.04%**. For 3.59%, 7 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.61%**.
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Royal Family. Boy or girl, Kate's baby will take the throne: U.K. government

The business of monarchy has always been stacked in favour of men. Not any more — or so the British government promises.

The first child of Prince William and his wife, Kate, will be born a king or a queen in waiting, under changes to succession rules designed to overturn centuries of tradition and give royal daughters the same rights as sons.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg pledged on Tuesday that the law on succession would be changed at the "earliest opportunity." He said "whether the baby is a boy or a girl, they will have an equal claim to the throne."

"Born to rule, be it a boy or a girl" proclaimed the Daily Mail, which noted that the baby had "already made royal and constitutional history" even before it is born.

Not so fast, caution others.

A royal saga needs a touch of uncertainty, and experts point out that despite politicians' promises, the law giving males primacy in succession has not yet been changed — and the clock is ticking.

"We know that the wishes of politicians are written in water," said royal historian Robert Lacey. "Law only becomes law when the law is made — and the law has not been made."

For centuries, preference was given to male heirs, so a first-born princess would be leapfrogged in the succession by a younger brother. As a re-



Britain's Prince William leaves a hospital in London on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sult, there have been some 35 kings of England since the Norman Conquest in 1066 but only seven queens.

Last year, the leaders of Britain and the 15 former colonies that have the queen as their head of state informally agreed to establish new rules giving female children equal status with males in the order of succession — something that will require legal changes in each country.

Meanwhile, the Duchess of Cambridge was "continuing to feel better" Tuesday as she spent a second day in a London hospital being treated for acute morning sickness, St. James's Palace said. William visited his wife in the hospital for several hours, as photographers and camera crews from around the world camped outside, eager for news on the royal pregnancy. Officials said earlier the duchess was not yet 12 weeks pregnant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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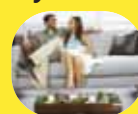


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Pipeline industry. ShawCor shares tumble after it says buyout 'highly unlikely'

ShawCor Ltd. stock tumbled 14.1 per cent in Tuesday trading, a day after it announced a strategic review revealed that an acceptable buyout offer is "highly unlikely" in the current market.

The Toronto-based pipeline equipment company's shares fell \$6.47 to \$39.47 with more than 2.5 million changing hands by market close.

It said late Monday that it came to the conclusion a sale was unlikely after a months-long strategic review that began in September, when Virginia Shaw, chair of the board of directors told the board she would be prepared to possibly sell her shares as part of a sale of the company.

Shares in the company have shot up 30 per cent since then as investors speculated about a potential sale.

But ShawCor said Monday that "an acceptable sale transaction for all of the shares of ShawCor, while always a possibility, is highly unlikely at this time."

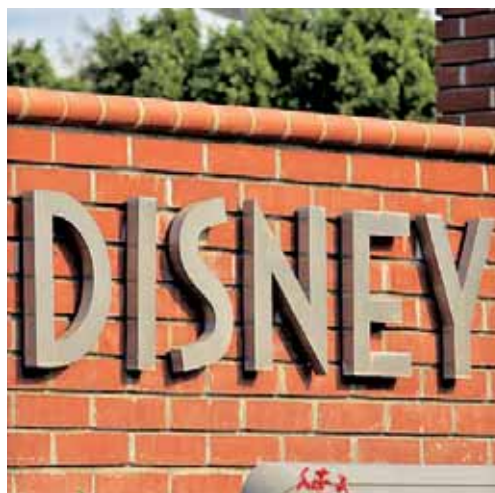
However, it added that it will continue to review and consider a range of stra-

ShawCor

- ShawCor specializes in products and services for the pipeline and oil and gas industries.
- The company announced in October it bought full ownership of Dublin-based holding company Fineglade Ltd. — paying \$135 million to acquire the 60 per cent it didn't already own. The transaction beefed up ShawCor's assets, weeks after it created the independent committee.

tegic alternatives, but said it could give no assurance any particular transaction would take place.

The company said it wouldn't comment further on the review, unless it enters a specific decision on a particular transaction or determines disclosure is appropriate. It said it will conduct business as usual in the meantime. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Netflix to show Disney movies shortly after theatrical runs

This combination of file photos shows the Walt Disney logo in Burbank, Calif., and Netflix's headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif. On Tuesday, Netflix's video subscription service trumped pay-TV channels and grabbed the U.S. rights to show Disney movies shortly after they finish their runs in theatres. The multi-year licensing agreement represents a breakthrough for Netflix as it tries to add more recent movies to a popular service that streams video over high-speed Internet connections. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Telecom

Smartphone users making switch to data: Rogers CEO

Rogers Communications Inc. says consumers and

businesses will make fewer voice calls on smartphones and connected devices, but increase their data usage going forward.

CEO Nadir Mohamed says 40 per cent of Rogers' wireless revenues now come from the use of data,

driven by access to the Internet. Mohamed was speaking Tuesday at the UBS global media and communications conference in New York. The Rogers CEO says there will be fewer voice calls going forward as smartphone users make

the switch to using data. He also says Rogers has almost 800,000 devices connected to its network, such as parking meters, and expects these kinds of connections to continue to be a source of growing revenue.


THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ottawa

BoC maintains interest rates will need to rise

The Bank of Canada is holding fast to its view that the economy is poised for a comeback and that interest rates will need to rise at some point in the future.

The central bank offered no surprises in its Tuesday interest rate announcement, keeping the policy setting rate at one per cent

for the 18th consecutive announcement date.

Bank governor Mark Carney kept in place his future guidance that in all likelihood rates are more likely to rise in the future than fall, or even stay the same.

"Although underlying momentum appears slightly softer than previously anticipated, the pace of economic growth is expected to pick up through 2013," the bank said in its policy statement. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Washington

Plans for avoiding fiscal cliff far apart

Both U.S. President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress now have laid out some specifics of their vision for stepping back from the "fiscal cliff" budget crisis, but the plans are vastly different and leave politicians far from agreement with a deadline less than a month away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calgary

Canadian Pacific to cut 4,500 jobs

Canadian Pacific says it will eliminate some 4,500 jobs by 2016 and expects more than a third of those cuts to come by year-end as the struggling railroad works to bring down its operating costs. The Calgary-based company said reductions will be achieved through job cuts, attrition and reducing contractors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canadian Pacific Rail locomotives sit idle at the company's Port Coquitlam yard east of Vancouver in May. Canadian Pacific announced job cuts Tuesday morning. **THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE**

Market Minute



DOLLAR
100.68¢ (+0.17¢)



TSX
12,137.18 (-32.56)



OIL
\$88.50 US (-59¢)



GOLD
\$1,695.80 US (-\$25.30)

Natural gas: \$3.54 US (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 12,951.78 (-13.82)

CFIB report. Five extra public sector sick days cost up to \$3.5B

A new report suggests public sector employees in Canada take nearly five more sick, disability and personal days per year than Canadians working in the private sector.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business says those extra days cost up to \$3.5 billion per year, noting some public sector workers can bank unused sick days, then take a lump-sum payment or use the days to retire early.

The CFIB says federal government employees take the most time off, averaging 15.2

Private sector figures

6.7

Employees in businesses with fewer than 20 employees averaged 6.7 days off, while those in firms with more than 500 employees took 9.1 days, which is still lower than the public sector average.

sick, disability and personal days per year compared to 12.9 days in the overall public sector and 8.2 days in the overall private sector.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OH, CHRISTMAS TREE, WHY DO YOU CAUSE SUCH A DEBATE?



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an important dialogue going on in households around the world right about now.

And it goes like this:

He: So, where do you think the tree should go this year?

She: You know, Hon, I really think we should bite the bullet and buy an artificial tree this year. Those real trees are so messy. They drop all their needles and are full of bugs. Squirrels, too, maybe.

He: The trouble with artificial trees is that they look as if they were put together on craft day at kindergarten using toilet brushes and spray paint.

She: That's not true! The new ones are pretty nice and they come with lights. All you have to do is take them out of the box, plug them in and voila: instant Christmas.

He: I try to stay away from anything with the word 'instant' in it: Instant coffee ... instant mashed potatoes.

She: But real trees are so expensive. To get one that looks any good, you have to spend at least \$50.

He: The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that

The pine needle in my side

"The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost."

price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost.

Sound of quaint landline ringing.

Offspring: Hi Daddy! What's up?

He: Hi. Your mother is lobbying for an artificial tree again this year.

Offspring: Nooooo! It wouldn't be Christmas. The Geneva Convention specifically calls for a real tree to be sacrificed as a solstice offering. Have you called the Xmas police?

He: Not yet. She does make a certain amount of sense about the mess, which I end up cleaning up every year. And it's harder now because I have to toss the old tree over the balcony.

Offspring: Don't be silly, Daddy. You can get one of those noble firs. They don't lose their needles until Easter and only cost \$100 or so.

He: Is that all?

Offspring: And you get to save Christmas. I know I can count on you, Daddy. Gotta run! Ciao!

She: Was that our daughter?

He: Yes. She accused you of trying to ruin Christmas.

She: Same old, same old. By the way, I've been

thinking: We could get one of those Charlie Brown trees from

Ikea. I think they come free with a dozen meatballs.

He: I believe that's Lillie Karl in Sweden. And his dog is called Snobben. At least there

would be no place for the bugs to hide.

She: You can't help showing off, can you?

He: So where do you think the tree should go this year?



Road bump in the baby lodge



CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

Royal pregnancy

Police not fooled by princely mask

A man wearing a Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, mask is escorted away by a policeman at the King Edward VII hospital in London, England. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, remains in hospital after Monday's announcement of her pregnancy and the fact she is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum or acute morning sickness. **METRO**

#royalbaby

Messages from the womb, under 140 characters

This man isn't the only royal impostor caught up in baby-mania. Spoof Twitter accounts of the unborn child are getting attention.

"CURRENT STATUS: DARK IN HERE, WILL UPDATE," tweeted @RoyalFoetus, which has 6,800+ followers. A rival, @RoyalFetus (10,000+ followers), said: "I may not have bones yet, but I'm already more important than anyone reading this." **METRO**

What are the odds?

8-1

Bettors in Britain have a range of possible wagers from betting agencies William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power. Paddy Power will give you 8-1 odds for betting on twins; 100-1 for triplets; and for quadruplets or more you'll get 500-1 odds.

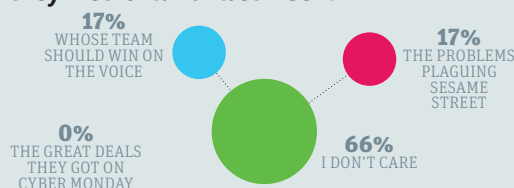
Online

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What do you think Barack Obama and rival Mitt Romney really talked about when they met for lunch last week?



Twitter

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Missed a train so that I could finish listening to the best cover I've heard of "Sweet Child o' Mine" by a busker on #yegtransit

@tammalee:

Repeat after me, public transit is for everyone and people deserve a seat more than a bag does. #yeg

@travishnidan:

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@KailiShore:

I now know how a polar bear feels walking across the arctic tundra, so windy in #yeg today

@sammaciag:

Special thanks to the sweet old lady at the news stand in the #yeg airport who helped a teary, migrained me track down advil.

On top of the cheesy charts

Barry Manilow has become just the fifth artist to score 50 hits on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. The sentimental performer entered the rarified mix thanks to a cushy rendition of Santa Claus Is Coming to Town off his new Christmas album. As any Fanilow worth their One Night Live! One Last Time! concert tee could tell you, it's been four decades since the romantic balladeer first cracked the easy listening chart in November of 1974 with Mandy (the first of 13 of Manilow's ditties that would soar to No. 1 on the chart). We cosy up with the AC music titans voted most easy on the ears.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca



Johnny Mathis

AC chart appearances: 49

While just one chart appearance shy of an official 50 entries club membership, this velvet voiced crooner pioneered the greatest hits album format. 1958's Johnny's Greatest Hits earned Mathis a spot in the Guinness Book of World Record.



Elvis Presley

AC chart appearances: 53

You can thank the king, and thank him very much for assuring that the rhythm and blues, rock and roll and gospel charts got all shook up during his reign from the 1950s through the '70s until his untimely passing.

Easy Listening Cred: Can't Help Falling in Love, Suspicious Minds, It's Now or Never.



Neil Diamond

AC chart appearances: 58

While millennials know this jazzy vocalist as the guy who sings Sweet Caroline, Diamond has written a treasure trove of soft rock gems. He's sold over 125 million records during his five decades on the scene. Easy Listening Cred: America, Heartlight, Forever in Blue Jeans.



Elton John

AC chart appearances: 68

In high school, this bespectacled pop piano prodigy should have been voted "most likely to be heard in an animated movie."

With lyricist Bernie Taupin in tow, the rocket man launched one hit after the other into radio orbit since Your Song off his sophomore album cracked the top 10 in 1970.



Barbra Streisand

AC chart appearances: 64

Trends, smrends, Babs eschewed 'em all, including rhinoplasty, fearing a nose job would ruin her voice. Never following suit with the hipsters of her heyday, Streisand was adult contemporary long before the term was coined.

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Is Butler a pro bad decision maker?

New movie. Richard Crouse tries to look at the brighter spots in the actor's career with another romantic comedy waiting in the wings



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Are there five more terrifying words in the English language than: new Gerard Butler romantic comedy? Butler is a good actor who makes lots of bad movies, but his track record in the rom com department is particularly dire.

Critics hate these movies, calling the handsome Scottish actor's attempts at mixing love and comedy "instantly grating," and "embarrassingly limited." Only Katherine Heigl (Butler's co-star in *The Ugly Truth*, called "ugly-ass crap" by *Rolling Stone*) has a worse track record.

This weekend he stars in



Playing for Keeps, starring Gerard Butler, opens this weekend. HANDOUT

Playing for Keeps, the true story of a former sports star

who pulls his life together through romance and, let's

hope, comedy.

The reviews have yet to

Slammed in the press

A few years ago the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker."

come in for *Playing for Keeps*, but let's hope it breaks his rom com track record and delivers some mushy, funny fun.

Rather than dwell on the bad stuff, in this column I'll look at his more interesting performances — and no, that Jennifer Aniston movie won't be included.

Butler became famous in 2002, with big roles in *Reign of Fire* and *Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life*, opposite Angelina Jolie. Then he developed into a crossover star, taking roles in everything from sci-fi flicks (*Timeline*), to musicals (*The Phantom of the Opera*) and even a rendering of the Anglo-Saxon epic poem *Beowulf* (*Beowulf & Grendel*).

The film that turned him into a heartthrob, but one

with serious dramatic chops, was *Dear Frankie*, a four-hanky tearjerker about a single mother who resorts to trickery to keep the memory of her late husband alive in her son's mind.

It was his next movie, however, that made him (and his meticulously crafted six-pack) a superstar. In 300 he's King Leonidas, a Spartan who led 300 soldiers against the might of the Persian army. It's the film equivalent of a heavy metal concert — loud, brutal and completely uncompromising — and it made him an action hero.

A few years ago, the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker" alongside Cuba Gooding Jr. and John Travolta, but Hollywood hasn't been all bad for Butler.

Post 300 highlights include playing a charming mobster in the violent Guy Ritchie flick *RocknRolla*, voicing Stoick the Vast, the chieftain of a Viking tribe in the animated *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Coriolanus*, a modern dress version of a 1608 play by William Shakespeare.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Random sources state the obvious about Will and Kate



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The news of Will and Kate's impending arrival has the tabloids in a tizzy — and scrambling for anyone, anyone at all, to be quoted about it.

I've compiled a sam-

pling of the best of these random, mostly anonymous sources, all of whom state how Kate and Will will be good parents (as if anyone is going to say that she's going to become a baby-smacking alcoholic and he's planning on raising the baby as a racist).

The best of the bunch, with an added bonus of Snooki (say what?) commentary:

"Kate will be a firm but fair mother. Kate will let her children have fun and freedom, but she will also make sure they do what is best for them." — A "pal" of the Duchess of Cambridge, per *Us Weekly*.

"I can see William

wanting to take time off in the modern paternity-leave style, so that he bonds with his child." — A "family friend" to daily-mail.co.uk

"(Kate and Will) both try to be as normal as possible in their private lives. ... Everyone's always said what great parents they'll be, since they are such a caring couple and very relaxed. They will lavish love on their children." — Jessica Hay, a "childhood acquaintance" of Kate's, to Australian tabloid *New Idea*

"I'm sure she will be an amazing mom." — Snooki to the *New York Daily News*

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Katy Perry

Perry hides from Brand under the table

A nice dinner out at the Beverly Hills Polo Lounge with John Mayer turned awkward for Katy Perry when her ex-husband, Russell Brand, showed up. Just how awkward are we talking about? Perry reportedly crouched under her table and hid just to avoid Brand, according to Us Weekly.

"The hostess almost seated Russell next to

Katy," a source says. "Kay's face was like, 'Oh s---!'" And while the seating disaster was averted and Brand was set up elsewhere in the restaurant, he apparently needed to satisfy his curiosity upon learning of Perry's presence.

"On his way to the bathroom, he looked at [John and Katy] through a window," the source adds.



John Travolta

Travolta's alleged lover sues star

A man who told the National Enquirer that he had a "steamy affair" with John Travolta while working as his pilot from 1981 to 1987 is now suing the actor, insisting he never signed a confidentiality agreement that would bar him from talking to the media about his time with the actor, according to TMZ.

The man, Doug Gotterba, claims Travolta's lawyer, Marty Singer, threatened a lawsuit after the story was published. Singer maintains that Gotterba's termination agreement included a confidentiality clause and that the former employee is just out for attention.

"Mr. Gotterba obviously filed this lawsuit to get his 15 minutes of fame," Singer says. "We plan to get this meritless case promptly dismissed."



Lindsay Lohan

IRS seized Lohan's bank accounts

More trouble for Lindsay Lohan. The IRS has reportedly seized the Liz and Dick star's bank accounts because of her outstanding debt, according to TMZ. Lohan previously had liens filed against her for unpaid taxes from 2009 and 2010 total more than \$233,000, but the government apparently got tired of waiting for her to make good on the debt. She is said to also owe money for 2011. Sources tell the website that Lohan is in panic mode and is scrambling for ways to make enough money to get out of debt pronto.

Twitter



@ABFoundation

I'm gonna write a book. A novel. It's called A PRIVATE MISUNDERSTANDING. Can you guess what it's about? Can you guess what happens?



@kathygriffin

I bet Justin Bieber can blow a mean whistle



@ParisHilton

Just landed in Dubai. Next stop New York City.



@RebelWilson

I am going to go on a new cleanse - my weekend cleanse of cutting everything out of my diet except for chocolate DID NOT WORK!

3 LIFE

Since 1985, the United Nations has recognized the contributions of volunteers around the world on Dec. 5, International Volunteer Day. Metro talks to Cuso International and Free The Children, international development organizations that send volunteers overseas to share their expertise with partners in other nations. Here, they offer five things to consider before taking the leap into overseas volunteering.

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca



Visual artist Stephanie Stoker (centre) works with young adults in Peru. CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Choose your organization carefully

Some organizations require you to pay your own way, and often include a fee; volunteering may be a fundraising mechanism for a development project. For others, volunteering is fundamental to their programs, and those serving take on professional roles in longer-term development.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

5 things every volunteer should know

Work alongside the local community

Often times, travellers volunteer in isolation from the local community in which they are working in. Make sure to travel with organizations that have strong partnerships with local communities and governments. This enables you to ensure you are committing to a project that promotes long term and sustainable change.

CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN



School-building with local children creates a lasting bond for volunteers. FREE THE CHILDREN



Bairu Sium, left, a Toronto high school teacher, assists his colleagues in education in Tanzania. SCOTT PORTINGALE/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

Know why you're going

Volunteers want to help and make a difference, as the cliché goes, but most know this isn't a purely selfless act. You will learn new skills, broaden your horizons and come to better understand yourself and the world. And that's all OK. Reflect on your motivations. You want to help reduce global poverty or protect the natural world, but what else? Have you always wanted to travel, but not as a tourist? Work with kids? When you understand your motivations, you'll be in a better position to choose the option that is right for you.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

A volunteer trip is just the beginning

Volunteer travel is a life-changing experience for both the traveller and the developing communities in which they work. Further ignite the global change maker in you by taking your experience one step further when you return home. Spread the message of your transformative experience to others, helping to spark the change within them.

CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN



For young people, volunteering means being engaged, empowered and part of a team. FREE THE CHILDREN

Don't assume you know it all

Decades of successful and not-so-successful development assistance shows that projects parachuted in from above, without consultation or roots in local communities, usually do not have long-term benefits. You will want to help build the social infrastructure that is so critical to any nation's future.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL



Augustina Aporte, who lives in Bolivia, works with the Chiquitania Forest Conservation Foundation on sustainability projects. MIGUEL HORTIGUELA/CUSO INTERNATIONAL



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Laughing in the frigid face of Old Man Winter

Festival fun. Bundle up and embrace Canadian culture at one of the many outdoor events taking place this season

The coming weeks are a time of hibernation for many Canadians. As temperatures plummet, it's only natural to want to huddle indoors near the warm glow of a fireplace or big-screen television and wait for the depth of winter to pass.

But for many people, it's a time of celebration. It's also a chance to show Old Man Winter that we Canadians can still face winter head-on, like the early settlers did with an axe, a tent and some hearty food and drink. For a few hours, anyway.

"Even if it's -40 C, people will be out there. They really want to enjoy winter and they embrace it," says Irina Ivanov-Bissonnette, spokesperson for the Festival du Voyageur.

The festival is held every

year in mid-February in the St. Boniface neighbourhood of Winnipeg and brings visitors back to the early 19th century, when a small fort on the very site played an important role in the fur trade. There are similar festivals held across the country in January and February, including the Voyageur Winter Carnival in Thunder Bay, Ont., the Yukon Sourdough Rendez-Vous in Whitehorse, and the biggest one of all — the Quebec Winter Carnival.

They have a common theme — instead of hiding from winter, get outside, interact with hundreds or thousands of others and celebrate the often cold, harsh history of Canada's development. The Yukon Sourdough Rendez-Vous bills itself as "the only legal cure for the cabin fever blues."

"We want to encourage people to embrace the weather, embrace that time of the year," said Rendez-Vous Society executive director Jon Solberg. "It's about actually getting out in the community and getting active in different events that are going on."

Festival-goers at Rendez-Vous, scheduled to run Feb. 21 to 24 in 2013, may find themselves carrying large bags of flour on their backs, throwing an axe or racing in snowshoes — all in temperatures that can dip below -20 C. The festival celebrates the Yukon gold rush and recreates, to some extent, how people lived in the late 1800s. "It's celebrating the pioneers," Solberg said.

At the Festival du Voyageur, the focus is on 1815, a time when the Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company were vying for control of the fur trade. Actors in period costume inside a recreated Fort Gibraltar greet you as if you have stepped back in time. Any mention of Canada is likely to be met with a quizzical expression and a reminder that Canada is to the East. You, monsieur, are in Rupert's Land.

The period actors show visitors how to make tools, fur coats and other goods, and how meals were prepared and food was stored in an isolated Prairie outpost.

There is also a bit of poetic

If you go...

- **The Festival du Voyageur.** Is held in Whittier Park, east of downtown Winnipeg. festivalvoyageur.mb.ca
- **Rendez-Vous.** There are several direct flights to Whitehorse from Vancouver. Travel from most other cities is not non-stop. yukonrendezvous.com



Children hang out with Leo LaTuque, the mascot of the Festival du Voyageur. DAN HARPER/THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

licence to the festival's take on history. Just outside the fort, period actors play out a battle between French- and English-speaking soldiers that looks like something from the Plains of Abraham in Quebec. The battle portrays a skirmish between the forces of Lord Selkirk and La Verendrye that never actually happened. Selkirk, a Scottish settler, and La Verendrye, a French explorer, lived at different times of the west's development.

The festival, now in its 44th year, is the largest Francophone

festival in western Canada, attracting about 95,000 people over 10 days. The 2013 edition is scheduled to run Feb. 15 to 24.

At the Festival du Voya-

geur, the temperatures have sometimes risen to the point where snow and ice sculptures melt. Other years, temperatures have dipped below -40 C, leaving all but the bravest souls scurrying for cover in heated tents.

In Whitehorse, such temperatures are rare. But two years ago, the thermometer dipped to -25 C and a fierce wind blew at 40 kilometres an hour. "With our main performance tent, we put heat in there," said Solberg. "We warm it up pretty good. It's a bit of a windbreak and a shelter for people to go to."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Palm Beach — the place for golfing and some gawking

Tropical trials. Test your skills on the links with the likes of Jack Nicklaus behind some tough courses



BRIAN KENDALL
canadiangolft traveller.com

Even Mother Nature, as if mindful of the inflated expectations of the fabulously rich, seems to try harder in Palm Beach.

The famed beachfront playground of Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Kennedys and Trumps roughly marks the start of the tropics in South Florida. Here, about 100 kilometres north of Miami, the cobalt-blue waters of the Gulf Stream run close to shore, promoting milder winters and an abundance of ficus, Royal Poinciana and banyan trees — species that refuse to grow in the harsher climes to the north.

Gawking at the Mediterranean-style waterfront mansions along Billionaire's Row and splurging on Chanel, Armani, Gucci and other designer labels in the chic boutiques that line Worth Avenue and its gracefully colonnaded corridors — Via Mizner, Via Prigi, Via Roma — are the top tourist activities.

But for many visitors, the Palm Beach experience isn't complete without a round of golf on the Ocean Course at The Breakers, the towering Italian Renaissance-inspired luxury hotel that has been the focus of Palm Beach society for over a century.

Reputed to be Florida's first

18-hole layout when it opened in 1897, the Ocean Course sparked the game's rapid growth throughout Palm Beach County, a winter tourist destination touted as Florida's Golf Capital by marketers.

Stretching from Jupiter in the north to Boca Raton in the south, the county — the largest southeast of the Mississippi River — is home to more than 165 courses, including several of the top resort tracks in the South.

Many of golf's biggest names call Palm Beach County home, including Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Justin Leonard, Nick Price and golf architect Tom Fazio. Golf academies and equipment outlets are as ubiquitous as gas stations. Also found here is the headquarters of the PGA of America.

Sharing the same address as the PGA in the upscale enclave of West Palm Beach, about 20 minutes north of Palm Beach, is PGA National Resort and Spa, home of the annual Honda Classic (Feb. 28 to March 3) and the scene of numerous past championships, including the 1983 Ryder Cup and the 1987 PGA Championship.

PGA National recently completed a \$100-million renovation that included an extensive refurbishing of the hotel and a tweaking by Nicklaus himself of the Champion Course — the marquee attraction of the property's five 18-hole layouts. Originally designed by Tom Fazio, the course was first reworked in 1990 by Nicklaus, whose most significant contribution was the infamous bear trap — holes 15 through 17 — a wind-swept and watery trio that has broken the hearts of countless golfers.

PGA National's major rival among Palm Beach County's golf resorts is Boca Raton Resort and Club, a Spanish-Moorish beachfront palace designed in the 1920s by visionary architect Addison Mizner, famous as the creator of the Palm Beach style. Rich in golf history, the lavishly refurbished Boca, as the resort is known locally, once employed legends Sam Snead and Tommy Armour as golf professionals. Though just 6,253 yards in length, the property's original William Flynn-designed layout, — the Resort Course — is sneakily difficult, with rapid elevation changes and numerous water features. A far stiffer test is the Country Club Course, a 6,714-yard Joe Lee design located a short drive from the resort, where water comes into play on 14 holes.

Lee, a native of Florida who was a master at shaping the local terrain, also designed the Abacoa Golf Club in Jupiter, Fla. Water hazards and sand bunkers are almost constantly in play at this lush and well-conditioned track. Another must-play course, especially for fans of Donald Ross — arguably the greatest of all golf architects — is Delray Beach Golf Club. This classic and affordable 6,907-yard design features rolling fairways, water on five holes and Ross's distinctive random bunkering.

Online

- Follow Brian Kendall on twitter @cdngolfttraveller and visit his website, canadiangolfttraveller.com



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Optimize your office experience

Placement pointers.

A co-op can easily turn into a full-time career, so work it like you're already on board

VALERIE AGUIAR
TalentEgg.ca

Going out on a co-op work term for the first time can be daunting. Aside from showing up to work, there's a lot you should do to make a good impression.

Here are seven tips to help you make the most of your experience:

Don't wait until the first day

If you've been given your managers' contact information, get in touch with them. Let her know that you are excited to start and find out if there is anything they can suggest for you to do before you arrive. This gives them a good impression of you before they've even met you.

On your first day, come prepared

Bring in a copy of your job de-



Don't flood your supervisor's inbox with questions when you could have easily asked a co-worker instead. ISTOCK

scription as well as a notebook. You'll be taking in a lot of new information, so it helps if you write it down. It's also important that you rest up the night before. Even though your job might not be grueling, being in a new environment is, so help your body out by getting some sleep.

Ask questions

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. People know you are new, and in most cases, they'll be more than happy to help. Don't be intimidated if everyone seems busy. They are, but they'll still find a way to help you — if you ask.

Observe

Whenever possible, try to watch and see how your man-

ager and co-workers interact (not in a creepy way, of course!). Maybe people at your company are very casual in conversation. How do people dress? How long do people typically go for lunch? Use what you see to help you fit in.

Ask for work

Each manager is unique. Some might delegate tasks to you,

Speak out

@TalentEgg: #Coop students and grads: do you think co-op placements make a big difference in hatching a career? #QuestionOfTheDay

- @SabaSabati: Absolutely! I graduate w/ min 9 months experience. Relative to those with 0, it's a huge advantage! + networking opp = priceless
- @ssimpson3: It's a great way to add some experience to your resume, network within the industry, and gain some real world skills
- @danchukal: absolutely! Coop gets ur foot in the

door and without that exp, you'll be many steps behind those who have. #QuestionOfTheDay

- @sonjaferne: My worry as parent is companies cutting back; more students to place & fewer placements these days. So...is it worth it?
- @ScouseNerd: absolutely! If my previous program had anything like that I think my life would be much different today
- @Mathoraa: Definitely! It not only gives you experience, but also a 'feel' on what the job is like

others might only give you work if you ask for it. Don't be afraid to use the phrase, "Would you like me to do anything in particular today?" It always helps to be proactive at work. Plus, you might learn a thing or two.

When in doubt, check it out. If the work you are given is difficult and you aren't sure whether you did it correctly, ask someone to look over your

work.

Your manager would definitely prefer this instead of finding a ton of mistakes later. You'll find that as time goes on, you'll feel more confident in your work.

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Landing a co-op position is great for getting hands-on experience in your field of choice, putting what you've learned in the classroom to practical use in the workplace. However, there are a few things that you should just simply not do.

To make sure you work it out in style, here are our guidelines for what not to do at your co-op position.

Don't slack because it's not a 'real job'

While co-op placements may not be technically a 'real job,' the work and opportunity that they present are no lie.

Showing up on time and working hard will not only make your experience better, it could help turn that placement into a 'real job' in the future.



Don't rule out the possibility of shadowing people in other departments if you feel you aren't learning. ISTOCK

Don't go in blank

Getting a co-op placement can be challenging, but once you get one, don't just sit back and wait for the ride to begin. Learn about the company you're working for, the different departments that you'll be exposed to and figure out what it is that you want to get out of the experience.

Communicate your goals to your boss and work with them to make sure you make the most of your co-op.

Don't fly under the radar

When going into a new work environment, it can be tempting to fade into the background. However, since co-ops are short-term placements, you need to utilize your time in the office to

leave a positive impression.

Network within the office and get to know your colleagues and your boss.

Once you leave the office, these people can be great industry contacts for future jobs openings or mentorship so build relationships. You want to be on their radar, not flying under it.

Don't whine about your work

Co-op placements may not be the most glamorous of positions. Sometimes you have to do data input and, occasionally, your day may be filled with filing, but that is part of the job. Whining about your work will only make you appear ungrateful for the position that you have.

If you are unhappy and feeling that you're not learning, don't complain, do something about it. Get your work done and talk to your boss about shadowing people in other departments or see if you can help your colleagues with their projects.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Speak out

@TalentEgg: #Coop students and grads: do you think co-op placements make a big difference in hatching a career? #QuestionOfTheDay

• @SabaSabati: Absolutely! U graduate w/ min 9 months experience. Relative to those with 0, it's a huge advantage! + networking opp = priceless

• @ssimpson3: It's a great way to add some experience to your resume, network within the industry, and gain some real world skills

• @danchukal: absolutely! Coop gets ur foot in the door and without that exp, you'll be many steps behind those who have. #QuestionOfTheDay

• @sonjaferne: My worry as parent is companies cutting back; more students to place & fewer placements these days. So...is it worth it?

• @ScouseNerd: absolutely! If my previous program had anything like that I think my life would be much different today

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Impress your guests' taste buds with sophisticated Parmesan Custard Cup

Parmesan Custard

1. In food processor, combine light cream cheese, whipping cream and eggs. Pulse until smooth, about 2 minutes.

2. Add Parmesan, salt and pepper; continue to pulse until smooth, about 1 minute. Divide Parmesan mix into each of the eight greased glass ramekins (approx. 1/4 cup or 50 ml in each)

Spinach Layer

1. Put spinach over strainer in the sink and gently press to remove water.

2. In skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, add garlic; cook, stirring until aromatic, about 1 min. Stir in spinach, green onions, salt and pepper. Cook to combine flavours, 4 mins. Remove from heat and spoon a generous 1/4 cup (50 ml) spinach mix on top of Parmesan custard, pressing gently.

Roasted Red Pepper and Salad Greens

1. In bowl, stir red pepper slices and garlic. Cover tops of spinach with a layer of

Parmesan Custard Cup



This recipe makes 8 custard cups. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

roasted red pepper. The peppers should cover the spinach. Smooth tops.

2. Place custard cups on large rimmed baking sheet and bake in 375 F (190 C) oven until set,

about 30 mins. Let cool slightly.

3. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, salt and pepper. Toss with mixed greens.

4. Run thin knife around edges of glass ramekins. Invert onto salad plates and top each with small amount of mixed greens and serve. Or top each cup with a handful of mixed greens and serve. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

Ingredients

Parmesan Custard

- 1 pkg (250g/8oz) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Spinach Layer

- 2 pkgs each (300g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

Roasted Red Pepper Layer

- 1 jar (340 ml) roasted red peppers, drained and thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic

Salad

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups (750 ml) mixed salad greens

Drink of the Week

Apple Cider Punch

Apple cider is one of those drinks that is automatically associated with winter and the holiday season. This version gets an added touch with grapefruit juice.

- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2.5 oz apple cider
- 1 oz grapefruit juice
- 1 egg white
- 1 oz corn syrup
- 1 dash Angostura bitters

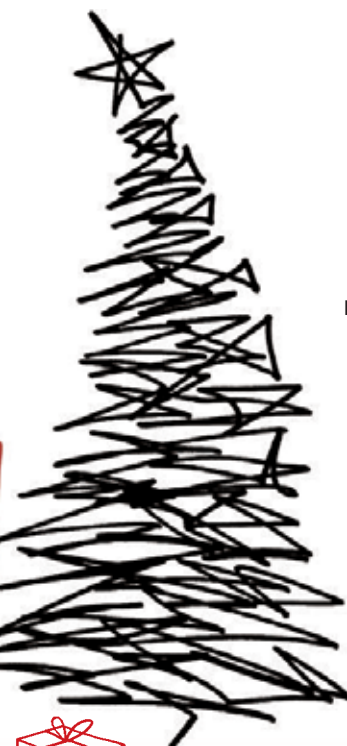
Combine all ingredients into a shaker, dry shake. Add ice and shake again. Double strain into glass. Garnish with apple slice.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF BOMBAY SAPPHIRE



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Hockey

Americans name invitees for junior selection camp

Returning players John Gibson, Jacob Trouba and J.T. Miller as well as some top NHL prospects were among 27 players invited Tuesday to the U.S. national junior team preliminary training camp.

Alex Galchenyuk of the Sarnia Sting, drafted third overall by the Montreal Canadiens in June, as well as Toronto Maple Leafs first-rounder Tyler Biggs and the Ottawa Senators' 21st overall selection Stefan Noesen were also invited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

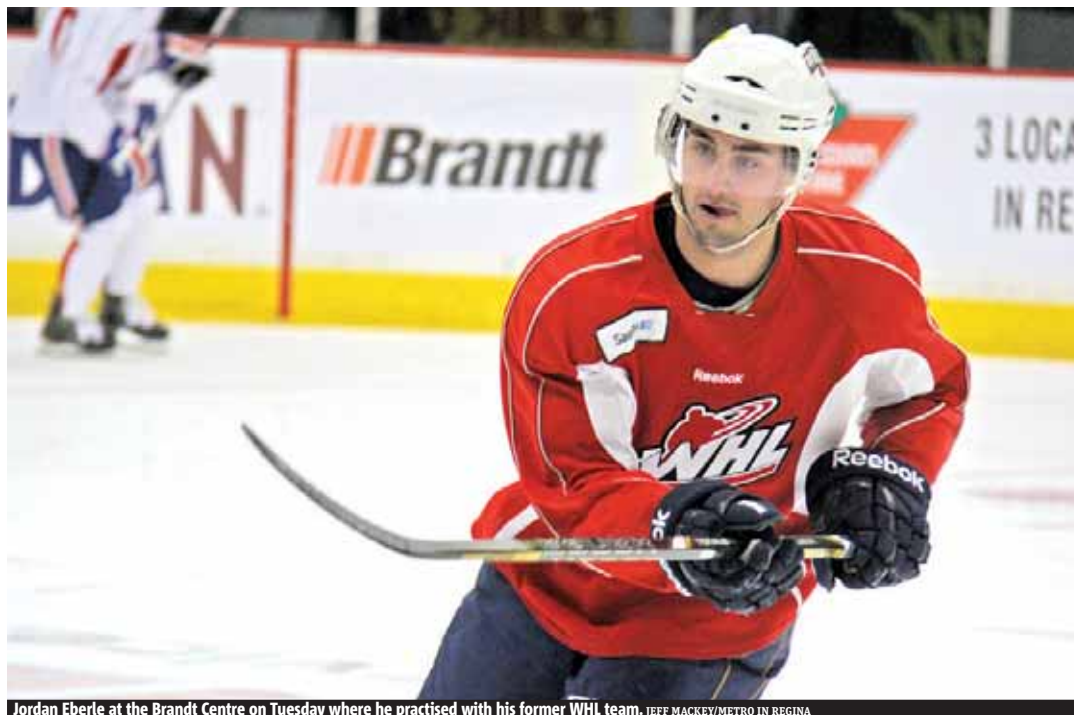
Owners, players put in marathon bargaining session

Tuesday's round of NHL labour talks stretched well into the night.

A group of 18 players and six league owners spent more than five hours in meetings on Tuesday afternoon — and they resumed talks around 10 p.m. ET after taking a break for dinner.

The marathon session was accompanied by whispers of optimism, something that had previously been in short supply. Penguins captain Sidney Crosby was among the players who sat across from the small cluster of owners, which included Pittsburgh's Ron Burkle, and those two were said to be strong voices in the room, according to sources.

Neither commissioner Gary Bettman nor NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr took part in the afternoon meetings, although both men were present at the midtown Manhattan hotel. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jordan Eberle at the Brandt Centre on Tuesday where he practised with his former WHL team. JEFF MACKEY/METRO IN REGINA

Eberle returns to old stomping grounds

A hero's return. Oilers star skates, and soaks in memories, with former WHL club



JEFF MACKEY
Metro in Regina

Regina Pats alumni and locked-out Edmonton Oiler Jordan Eberle visited the Queen City Tuesday to practise with his old team.

Though "old" may not be the best way to refer to Eberle or the Pats given their respective ages.

Quoted

"I want to play in Edmonton, I think that is the bottom line, but the way things are going it doesn't look good."

Jordan Eberle

"It is a little different (being back in the dressing room). I obviously have a lot of fond memories playing here," said Eberle, 22. "I walked in and remember the (dressing) room being a lot bigger."

Eberle was drafted 22nd overall by the Edmonton Oil-

ers in 2008, and has been waiting out the NHL lockout in Oklahoma City playing with the Barons in the AHL.

"My focus all year has been on Oklahoma City, and we are starting to get on a good run there so hopefully we can keep that going," he said.

Eberle is in Regina for a jersey-retirement ceremony tomorrow night when the Pats take on the Red Deer Rebels.

The announcement surprised some since Eberle is much younger than your stereotypical jersey retiree.

"It has only been two or three years since I played here last so it is a bit different, but

at the end of the day it is quite the honour, especially at such a young age," said Eberle.

He says he looks forward to playing in the NHL — and in Canada — once again.

"I want to play in Edmonton, I think that is the bottom line, but the way things are going it doesn't look good," said Eberle.

By the numbers

27

Jordan Eberle has 12 goals and 15 assists for 27 points in 20 games this season with the Oilers' farm team in Oklahoma City.

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NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	4	.750	—
Miami	12	4	.750	—
Brooklyn	11	6	.647	11/2
Chicago	8	8	.500	4
Atlanta	9	5	.643	2
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3
Boston	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	4
Indiana	9	9	.500	4
Charlotte	7	9	.438	5
Orlando	7	10	.412	5 1/2
Detroit	6	13	.316	7 1/2
Cleveland	4	14	.222	9
Toronto	4	14	.222	9
Washington	2	13	.133	9 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	3	.813	1/2
Oklahoma City	15	4	.789	—
San Antonio	14	4	.778	1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	6	.647	3
Golden State	10	7	.588	4
Houston	9	8	.529	5
Denver	9	9	.500	5 1/2
Minnesota	8	8	.500	5 1/2
Utah	9	10	.474	6
Dallas	8	9	.471	6
Portland	8	10	.444	6 1/2
L.A. Lakers	8	10	.444	6 1/2
Phoenix	7	12	.368	8
New Orleans	5	11	.313	8 1/2
Sacramento	4	12	.250	9 1/2

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results
Minnesota 105 Philadelphia 88
Washington 105 Miami 101
Oklahoma City 117 Brooklyn 111
Houston 107 L.A. Lakers 105
Memphis 108 Phoenix 87
Indiana 80 Chicago 76

Monday's results
Portland 118 Charlotte 112 OT
Detroit 89 Cleveland 79
New Orleans 102 Milwaukee 81
Denver 113 Toronto 110
L.A. Clippers 105 Utah 104
Orlando 102 Golden State 94

Wednesday's games
Portland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Utah, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
New York at Miami, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games
Denver at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m.
Orlando at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

LATE MONDAY

NUGGETS 113, RAPTORS 110

TORONTO (110)

Lowry 6-16 11-11 24, Bargnani 10-20 1-2 23, DeRozan 8-13 1-1 18, Ross 4-8 2-2 12, Johnson 5-7 0-0 11, Valanciunas 3-5 1-2 7, Davis 3-5 0-0 6, Calderon 1-4 1-1 4, Pietrus 1-5 0-0 3, Lucas 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 42-86 17-19 110.

DENVER (113)
Brewer 9-15 0-0 19, Fariel 5-11 8-11 18, McGee 4-5 9-16 17, Lawson 6-15 1-2 16, Gallinari 4-10 3-4 13, Koufos 4-12 2-6 10, Miller 3-4 2-2 8, Hamilton 4-8 0-0 8, Igoudala 1-5 2-2 4. Totals 40-85 27-43 113.

Toronto 24 20 31 35 —110
Denver 29 32 28 24 —113

3-Point Goals—Toronto 9-28 (Bargnani 2-8, Ross 2-5, Lowry 1-4, DeRozan 1-3, Calderon 1-3, Pietrus 1-3, Johnson 1-1, Lucas 0-1). Denver 6-15 (Lawson 3-5, Gallinari 2-4, Brewer 1-2, Igoudala 0-2, Miller 0-1, Hamilton 0-1). **Rebounds**—Toronto 37 (Davis 9, DeRozan 7, Ross 6, Bargnani 4, Johnson 4, Valanciunas 4, Lowry 3). Denver 53 (Koufos 10, Fariel 10, Gallinari 8, McGee 6, Brewer 5, Hamilton 5, Lawson 4, Miller 3, Igoudala 2). **Assists**—Toronto 19 (Lowry 7). Denver 25 (Igoudala 8). **Total Fouls**—Toronto 30, Denver 20.

A—15,221. T—2:17

SOCCER

UEFA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP STAGE

Second Leg

(home teams listed first)

Tuesday's results

AC Milan (Italy) 0 Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) 1
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) 1 Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 1 Manchester City (England) 0
Malaga (Spain) 2 Anderlecht (Belgium) 2
Montpellier (France) 1 FC Schalke 04 (Germany) 1
Olympiacos (Greece) 2 Arsenal (England) 1
Paris SG (France) 2 FC Porto (Portugal) 1
Real Madrid (Spain) 4 Ajax (Netherlands) 1

ENGLAND

ENGLISH CONFERENCE

Tuesday's results

Ebbsfleet United 2 Cambridge United 4
Lincoln City 0 Woking 2
Macclesfield Town 3 Hyde 2
Nuneaton 1 Dartford 0
Telford United 1 Barrow 1
Alfreton Town vs. Wrexham (ppd.)
Braintree Town vs. Forest Green Rovers (ppd.)
Gateshead vs. Grimsby Town (ppd.)
Newport County vs. Luton Town (ppd.)
Stockport County vs. Southport FC (ppd.)

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Named Jamie Nelson coach.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with 3B David Wright on an eight-year contract.

NBA

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Recalled F Kevin Jones from Canton (NBADL).

NFL

NFL — Suspended Washington CB Cedric Griffin four games for violating the NFL's policy on performance enhancing substances.
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released TE Todd Heap. Signed TE Kory Sperry.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed LB Dom DeCicco to a two-year contract and RB Harvey Unga to the practice squad. Waived/injured LB Patrick Trahan. Released QB Matt Blanchard from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed WR Mohamed Sanu on injured reserve. Signed RB Daniel Herron from the practice squad and WR Vidal Hazelton to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released FB Dominique Jones.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Released LB Clint Session and TE Maurice Stovall. Signed FB Will Tafo'ufu to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Re-signed Donte' Stallworth. Placed WR Julian Edelman on injured reserve. Released OL Mitch Petrus. Signed OL Tommie Draheim and OL Colin Miller to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Placed G James Carpenter on the reserve/non-football illness list. Waived/injured WR Braylon Edwards. Signed G Rishaw Johnson from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed OL Kyle DeVan and T Daniel Baldridge. Signed G Chris Scott to the practice squad. Placed T David Stewart and S Robert Johnson on injured reserve.

CFL

EDMONTON ESKIMOS — Released G Devin Tyler.
MONTREAL ALOUETTES — Signed FB Patrick Lavoie to a three-year contract.

AHL

HAMILTON BULLDOGS — Reassigned F Alain Berger and D Joe Stejskal to Wheeling (ECHL).
MANCHESTER MONARCHS — Signed G Peter Mannino to a one-year contract. Released D Vincent LoVerde from a professional tryout agreement.
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Assigned D Patrick Cullity to Idaho (ECHL).

NLL

COLORADO MAMMOTH — Traded F Derek Hopcroft to Buffalo for a conditional 2014 sixth-round draft pick.
WASHINGTON STEALTH — Signed F Athan Iannucci to a one-year contract.

MLS

FC DALLAS — Re-signed D George John to a multiyear contract.
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Exercised the 2014 contract option on M Zach Pfeffer and loaned him to Hoffenheim (Bundesliga-Germany) for 2013.

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Worcester	21	11	8	1	1	60	65	24	
Manchester	21	10	8	2	1	55	53	23	
St. John's	22	11	10	0	1	53	60	23	
Portland	21	10	9	1	1	67	69	22	
Providence	19	9	8	0	2	44	55	20	

NORTHEAST DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Springfield	20	12	4	1	3	70	42	28	
Bridgeport	20	10	9	0	1	62	70	21	
Connecticut	20	9	9	2	0	63	70	20	
Adirondack	20	9	11	0	0	52	60	18	
Albany	18	5	8	0	5	40	52	15	

EAST DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Syracuse	20	13	5	1	1	74	55	28	
Binghamton	18	12	4	1	1	57	44	26	
W-B/Scranton	20	13	7	0	0	58	46	26	
Hershey	21	9	11	0	0	55	62	19	
Norfolk	20	9	11	0	0	59	65	18	

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Abbotsford	20	13	3	2	2	56	36	30	
Toronto	21	12	8	0	1	70	59	25	
Lake Erie	22	11	9	1	1	70	70	24	
Rochester	19	9	8	2	0	63	59	20	
Hamilton	18	7	9	1	1	38	57	16	

MIDWEST DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Rockford	22	12	9	0	1	73	67	25	
Grand Rapids	19	11	6	1	1	66	58	24	
Chicago	20	9	8	2	1	56	62	21	
Milwaukee	19	8	8	1	1	54	58	20	
Peoria	20	6	10	2	2	47	73	16	

SOUTH									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Charlotte	21	12	7	0	2	70	61	26	
Oklahoma City	20	11	6	1	2	66	59	25	
Houston	20	11	6	1	2	67	59	25	
Texas	20	10	8	1	1	51	58	22	
San Antonio	20	6	11	0	3	51	63	15	

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.

Tuesday's result
San Antonio at Abbotsford

Wednesday's games
All Times Eastern
Bridgeport at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Texas at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

Thursday's games
Lake Erie at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Hershey at Norfolk, 7 p.m.

Friday's games
Lake Erie at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Adirondack at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Portland at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Manchester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Springfield at St. John's, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Houston at Texas, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 8
Bridgeport at Albany, 5 p.m.
Hamilton at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Providence at Worcester, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Norfolk at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Springfield at St. John's, 7:30 p.m.
Peoria at Texas, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Rockford, 8:05 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
New England	9	3	0	.750	430	260			
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	228	296			
Miami	5	7	0	.417	227	249			
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	277	337			

SOUTH									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
Houston	11	1	0	.917	351	221			
Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	265	306			
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	248	359			
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	206	342			

NORTH									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	303	242			
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	254	230			
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	302	260			
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	229	265			

WEST									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
Denver	9	3	0	.750	349	244			
San Diego	4	8	0	.333	258	257			
Oakland	3	9	0	.250	235	376			
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	188	322			

WEEK 13

Monday's result

Washington 17 N.Y. Giants 16

Sunday's results

N.Y. Jets 7 Arizona 6
Kansas City 27 Carolina 21
Indianapolis 35 Detroit 33
Buffalo 34 Jacksonville 18
Seattle 23 Chicago 17
New England 23 Miami 16
Houston 24 Tennessee 10
Green Bay 23 Minnesota 14
St. Louis 16 San Francisco 13
Denver 31 Tampa Bay 23
Cleveland 20 Oakland 17
Cincinnati 20 San Diego 13
Pittsburgh 23 Baltimore 20
Dallas 38 Philadelphia 33

GOLF

WEEKEND GLANCE

PGA TOUR

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON SHOOTOUT

Site: Naples, Fla.

Schedule: Friday-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Friday, 1-4 p.m., 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30-11:30 p.m.; Monday, midnight-3 a.m.) and NBC (Saturday, 4-6 p.m.; Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).

Online: www.franklintempletonshootout.com

PGA Tour site: www.pgatour.com

PGA TOUR OF AUSTRALASIA/ONEASIA TOUR

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Site: Sydney.

Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.

Television: Golf Channel (Wednesday, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m., 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Friday, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday, 1-3:30 p.m., 8 p.m.-1 a.m.; Sunday, 1-6 p.m.).

Online: www.australianopengolf.com.au

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
N.Y. Giants	7	5	0	.583	321	243			
Washington	6	6	0	.500	312	301			
Dallas	6	6	0	.500	280	295			
Philadelphia	3	9	0	.250	217	320			

SOUTH						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	11	1	0	.917	317	229
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	333	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	321	327
Carolina	3	9	0	.250	235	292

The 2013 Jetta Hybrid



Engine

The powertrain consists of a unique 1.4-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder engine worth 150 horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque. It's paired with a water-cooled electric motor rated at 27 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque. Electricity comes from a lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat.



A 1.4 litre, turbo-charged engine

2013 Jetta Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 1.4-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (150) with 27-hp electric motor (170, net)
- **Transmission.** Seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$29,400

Design

Physical modifications aimed at maximizing the Hybrid's fuel economy include a cold-air intake for the engine plus a special front air dam, side skirts and rear spoiler for the body. The underbody has been fitted with extra panels designed to further reduce air resistance and turbulence.

Fuel economy

The (Direct Shift Gearbox) or DSG also features a sport mode that holds each gear for a longer duration when accelerating, but at the expense of fuel economy that in "normal" mode is estimated at 4.6 l/100 km city and 4.0 highway. That beats the Jetta TDI's 6.7/4.6 highway figures and rivals the slower Civic Hybrid's.

Review. VW's hybrid shift is an economically sound one

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

In a diesel-versus-hybrid comparison that usually pits Volkswagen against the rest of the world, did anyone really see this one coming? Volkswagen

building a hybrid? One that beats its own diesel model in fuel economy and comes close in price? Talk about a shift. Talk about the 2013 Jetta Hybrid.

The Jetta's hybrid system generates 170 net horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque.

That's less than a Toyota Camry Hybrid or Ford Fusion Hybrid, but keep in mind that the Jetta is closer in size to the Honda Civic and its estimated 8.6-second

zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time trumps the Civic Hybrid by 1.5 seconds and the Jetta TDI by half a second.

Assisting the Jetta Hybrid in the performance department is a seven-speed automated manual transmission (Direct Shift Gearbox, or DSG) that features rapid-fire gear changes.

It can be left in automatic mode or the driver can go manually.

On the road, the Jetta's hybrid unit can briefly operate

on electric power for up to two kilometres and at speeds up to 60 km/h in standard mode, or 70 km/h in E-Mode. However, anything more than a gentle nudge of the pedal will tell the gas engine to join in.

The interior is standard Jetta fare, with the exception of a power meter that replaces the tachometer and displays when the Hybrid is in gas or electric mode.

Each model can come

equipped with a touch-screen audio system, an energy flow display, a navigation system, a Fender-brand audio package and a rearview camera, amongst other things. The Hybrid may not displace the cheaper Jetta TDI turbo-diesel as the fuel-saver's VW of choice, but it makes a sportier alternative to mainstream hybrids with their one-dimensional approach to cutting fuel consumption.



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L.A. show proves that cars are always greener (and shinier) on the other side

Electric evolution.

Automakers have spotted consumers' love of green, and the result is gorgeous, guilt-free vehicles



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Do you suffer from shiny object syndrome, or SOS as

it's known in the self-help industry? Are you pulled invisibly toward bright shiny objects, and then transfixed in their orbit, while you try to rationalize their purchase or theft?

Then don't go, like I did last week, to the Los Angeles Auto Show. It's full of things you will want to steal or buy — even the so-called green ones.

The evolution of green vehicles coming in more and more attractive packages has happened over the last decade or so, after automakers realized that

we consumers are drawn to green, so long as it is in a vehicle form that fits our emotional or practical needs, for whatever life stage we're in at the moment.

For example, while small and utilitarian is the ultimate way to go green, the chances are slim that you're going to buy a smart-for-two electric if you go to ski country every winter weekend with four kids and a smelly dog.

On the flip side, the chances are also slim you're going to shell out \$100,000-

plus for a cool Fisker Karma hybrid when you're a freshman at U of Jägermeister.

The talking heads during the automakers' press days at the L.A. show repeatedly mentioned that there is no silver bullet to green technology, and that they'll have to make green advances on all fronts and on all types of vehicles, and that the vehicles themselves cannot "not deliver" their respective brand promises.

So, if I could, I would like to draw your attention to three L.A. debuts that illustrate this vision.



Chevrolet Spark EV

Chevrolet is GM's go-to brand for targeting young hipsters and value-conscious elders. As Chevrolet's smallest car, the Spark is already a great urban mobility device, and the electrification of it makes it even more so. When it goes on sale next summer, for about \$32,500 US (the U.S. federal rebate of \$7,500 lowers the price to \$25,000), it will be GM's first all-electric passenger vehicle since the EV1 was controversially discontinued in 2003. Unfortunately, the small number of Spark EVs coming to Canada

next year is strictly for fleet accounts.

Technical highlights: Lots of components carried over from Volt; First vehicle to use new SAE Combo DC Fast Charging protocol, enables Spark EV to charge to 80 per cent in 20 minutes; Two seven-inch LCD screens to better utilize smartphone infotainment, like navigation, satellite radio and Apple's Siri voice thing. On top of that is a Lithium ion battery pack and electric motor (designed and built by GM in the U.S.) which delivers 130 hp and 400 pound-feet of torque! It should be a hoot to drive. Expect speeds of around 80 km/h.



BMW i8 Spyder

The BMW i8 Spyder shown in L.A. is definitely a concept, but production versions of both i8 coupes and convertibles are definitely coming sometime around the 2014-15 timeframe. Expect prices of more

than \$100,000 and top speeds of more than 150 mph, so they'll definitely be worthy of wearing the BMW badge. The "petrol" part of the plug-in hybrid concept is a three-cylinder turbo-diesel, expected to deliver about 70 mpg (3.36 L/100 km).

Mercedes-Benz Ener-G-Force

The L.A. show hosted a design challenge, where automakers could envision a Highway Patrol Vehicle in 2025.

Mercedes-Benz came up with the Ener-G-Force, which channels the vibe of a G Class off-roader circa 1979. There is, however, a twist. The G Force stores rainwater in the tanks on the roof, and transfers it to the "hydro-tech converter," where it's turned into hydrogen for operating the fuel cells. "Swappable" battery packs are stored in the side skirts. There is an electric motor at each wheel to deliver four-wheel drive.

A 360-degree topography scanner sends data to the suspension computer, which adjusts suspension parameters for maximum traction. It's a zero-emission vehicle with zero tolerance for citizen misbehaviour.





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GS model shown

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GT model shown

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Is seasonal tire dilemma starting to tire you out already?

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Maybe our expert can help. Bridgestone's Bill Vandewater outlines the differences between the summer, winter and all weather options

JEFF MELNYCHUK
Wheelbasemedia.com

This is where the rubber really meets the road — at the beginning of an old-fashioned Canadian winter.

Your old tires are so worn that they're practically transparent. But do you get summer tires and then swap them out for winter tires later on? Do you buy all-season tires and not worry about it? Or maybe a set of summer tires and then all-season tires for the winter because it doesn't snow all that much where you are?

It's really too bad that one

tire can't do it all, because the simple fact is that the average all-season tire is a compromise that isn't ideal in any condition. Bill Vandewater knows. As one of Bridgestone's tire engineers, he talks about tread compound, gripping edges, siping and aspect ratio around the water cooler at work like the rest of us talk about last night's game or the local news.

Keeping it simple, the basic thing to know, according to Vandewater, is that summer and winter tires are specifically built for those seasons, temperatures and driving surfaces.

All-season tires, on the other hand, are a compromise between both, since the properties of a good summer tire and a good winter tire contradict each other in nearly every aspect, from tread design and softness of the compound (which used to be made of rubber but is now a blend of synthetic ingredients) to sidewall construction.



Choose a tire based on your location and how much you drive. ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE



For the summer

Since all-season tires are so popular, the summer tire has evolved into the role of a high-performance tire built for speed and agility.

"A summer tire definitely differs in the tread," says Vandewater. "Big, blocky and larger is more stable than a tire with a small pattern."

And in a high-performance tire that needs to quickly and precisely react to what the driver is doing with the steering wheel and the brakes, being stable is everything. That also means a relatively shallow tread depth that reduces the tire's tendency to squirm around and deflect when pushed closer to its limits.

A summer tire also has a short, stiff sidewall to aid steering response. That means they'll generally have a 30 or 40-series sidewall height, which is a number that indicates the percentage of the tire's overall width. The lower the percentage (30 versus 40), the shorter the sidewall for a given width.

"Sizing is a big issue since there are no 60 or 70 series summer tires," says Vandewater.

As well, outside shoulders have larger tread blocks for cornering, while the inner area is built to channel water away to keep the tire from floating on top of the water, which is a condition known as aquaplaning.

For the winter

In sharp contrast to the summer tire, the winter is all about paddling slush and snow out of the way.

A different mission means completely different qualities. A winter tire has deeper grooves and more of them, which means more gripping edges to help get over slippery surfaces. They're usually narrower, too. "Wider tires have a tendency to float while narrower tires dig into the snow," says Vandewater. By contrast, a wide summer tire puts more tread on the pavement, which is a good thing.

"Tread is designed to work in a temperature range. Winter tires are designed to work in cold temperatures." A winter tire is soft to stay pliable in the cold, which helps it grip. A summer tire hardens up in the cold and actually works against itself, unable to conform to surface irregularities. "Running winter tires all year around ... (they're) relatively soft, which makes them unstable."

They also don't last. Driving snow tires in the summer is a sure way to kill them quickly, says Vandewater, since they're so soft. They'll wear down in no time.

The deep grooves, about 30 to 50 per cent deeper than that of a summer tire, might help you get through the snow, but they also take away from steering sharpness.

As soon as the snow is gone, change to your set of summer tires. Increasing the traction for a snow tire are sipes, which are tiny, nearly invisible slices in the tread that add more gripping edges. By contrast, a summer tire has no sipes, which helps to stabilize the tread to make it more responsive and better able to take the heat from high-performance use.



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All season dilemma

Since summer tires are generally reserved for high-performance vehicles, your only choice might be all-season tires for summer driving. And while they're a compromise between winter and summer tires, that doesn't mean they're bad.

They have a moderate tread depth, somewhere between summer and winter tires, more sipes and gripping edges than a summer tire and less than a winter tire. That makes an all-season less grippy in both extremes.

The compound is designed to work in a broad temperature range, again a compromise.

Driving a vehicle that came with summer tires from the factory in the winter means a change, but to what? Vandewater suggests winter tires if they're available to fit your vehicle. Low-profile winter tires are harder to come by, but "we do make 40-series winter tires." If not, it might be possible to buy different (smaller) wheels and winter-specific tires with taller sidewalls, which will also help spare your shiny summer wheels the grief of soaking in road salt.

Either way, you'll need to back off aggressive driving in recognition of the decreased traction. "All-season is a compromise, but the most practical tire for most people."

Turbochargers huff and puff their way to fuel efficiency



An Audi turbocharger. HANDOUT

Driving Force.

Just like its cousin the supercharger, it does the same thing while allowing automakers to use smaller engines

JILL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Your engine runs on gasoline, but before the fuel can be used, it must be mixed with air. That air is compressed by the pistons to produce power, but they can only do so much.

Automakers often add turbochargers or superchargers, which can coax more power out of a smaller engine without having to move up to a larger one.

"The strategy of downsizing and replacing engine displacement by charging led to large increases in torque, weight savings and fuel efficiency," says Cort Nielsen, public relations manager for Audi Canada.

Although turbochargers and superchargers both do the same thing — pump more air into the engine — they differ in the way they run.

On a turbocharger, the engine's exhaust is routed through a turbine to make it spin. A supercharger is connected by a belt (or sometimes by gears) to the engine, which powers the unit.

Originally, these systems were all about power, and automakers used them to make their performance models even sportier.

While that's still the case with some vehicles, turbochargers are increasingly used for fuel efficiency. Al-

though they do use more fuel when they're working — when they push in more air, the engine must also burn more gasoline — they only provide a boost when extra power is needed, such as during hard acceleration.

In the past, automakers might simply have used a larger engine, which could provide that power when needed, but which would use more fuel the rest of the time. A smaller turbocharged engine handles everyday driving chores while using much less fuel, but can still provide that power boost when the driver demands it.

Because the turbocharger's turbine has to "spool up," or start spinning faster when the driver accelerates, there can be a slight delay in power. Known as turbo lag, it was very noticeable in older engines, but newer units provide their power almost instantaneously.

"With modern electronics, the former deficien-

Did you know?

- **Fact.** Turbochargers and superchargers are known as forced induction systems because they force air into the engine. An engine without such a system draws in non-compressed air and is referred to as "naturally aspirated."

cies are no longer present," Nielsen says.

"The use of new combustion methods is another key topic in advanced development of engine charging technology, especially in efforts to increase charge pressure."

Whether an engine uses a turbocharger or supercharger depends on several factors, including where it will fit into the engine bay, and how easily its heat can be dissipated. Superchargers also tend to be more expensive and are more likely to be used on higher-priced vehicles.

Quoted

"With modern electronics, the former deficiencies are no longer present."

Cort Nielsen, public relations manager for Audi Canada
On how today's vehicles deal with Turbo lag.

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2

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The truly detail-obsessed car cleaner will want to go the extra mile to remove dirt and grime from every possible area. For these folks, the Muc-Off 5x brush set was created. Included in the kit is a soft washing brush that's easy on all painted surfaces, a detailing brush for hard-to-reach areas, a claw brush that helps clean up under the hood or the bottom side of your vehicle, a two-prong brush for cleaning brake and suspension components and a wheel and component brush for scrubbing the rims. The set features nylon bristles and rubberized handles and bases so they won't scratch or dent your car. Visit muc-off.com and buy for \$30 US or from amazon.com.



3

Time for a Shelby

Short of buying an original Cobra roadster or one of the late racer/entrepreneur Carroll Shelby's Mustang-based sports cars, this limited-edition Shelby 1000 wristwatch could be one of the rarest (and priciest) memorabilia items available for purchase. Designed by watchmaker David Yurman, this very cool timepiece was originally created to celebrate both the 950-horsepower Shelby 1000 and the 50th anniversary of the Shelby American company. The watch is available in either stainless steel for \$7,200 or in black at \$8,600. The latter includes a special coating called PVD that's applied to the bezel and crown to prevent the colour from wearing away. But you should act quickly as only 150 copies of each version are being produced. Full details and order form are available at davidyurman.com.



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
Look ahead and make plans — the bigger the better. The planets are encouraging you to try out new ways of doing things and before the current week is over, you will have had a revelation of some kind.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
What happens over the next 24 hours will convince you there can be no more looking back. It is the future that matters and the future begins now. Change your life by changing the way you think about it.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
Why do you believe you are surrounded by enemies? Whatever the reason, it must not be allowed to stop you from taking risks. Over the next few days, if you bet against the odds, you might just win big.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
What is the one thing you are really good at? Everyone has a talent of some sort and if you identify yours and do something with it, you will soon enjoy amazing success. Do what comes naturally and do it brilliantly.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
Be brave and take that big gamble you have been thinking of. There are, of course, no guarantees but life is supposed to be fun and one of the most fun things you can do is to reach beyond your usual limits.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A long-term problem will work itself out to your complete satisfaction today and to say you will be surprised is a big understatement. Don't think about it too much, just make the most of it.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It seems you have been working at cross purposes with a friend, but the good news is you can easily set things straight. Identify what each of you is trying to accomplish then resolve to help one another.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone new will come into your life today and it could be the start of a great friendship. You may be as different as chalk is from cheese but for some reason you will click. It could be you are soul mates.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Old-fashioned ideas and habitual routines tend to bore you and that's good because success will come through trying new things. Don't just move with the times, move ahead of the times. Shake up the status quo.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Whatever it is you get up to next it is sure to change the way other people look at you, and maybe even the way you look at yourself. Strive to be different, not just today but every day from now on.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will have plenty to say for yourself today but there is a danger you will say too much and turn others against you. That may not worry you much now but it will later on when you need their assistance.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's events will surprise you, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who thinks in terms of black and white or good and bad. Try not to be so conservative in your opinions. Strive to see the bigger picture.
SALLY BROMPTON

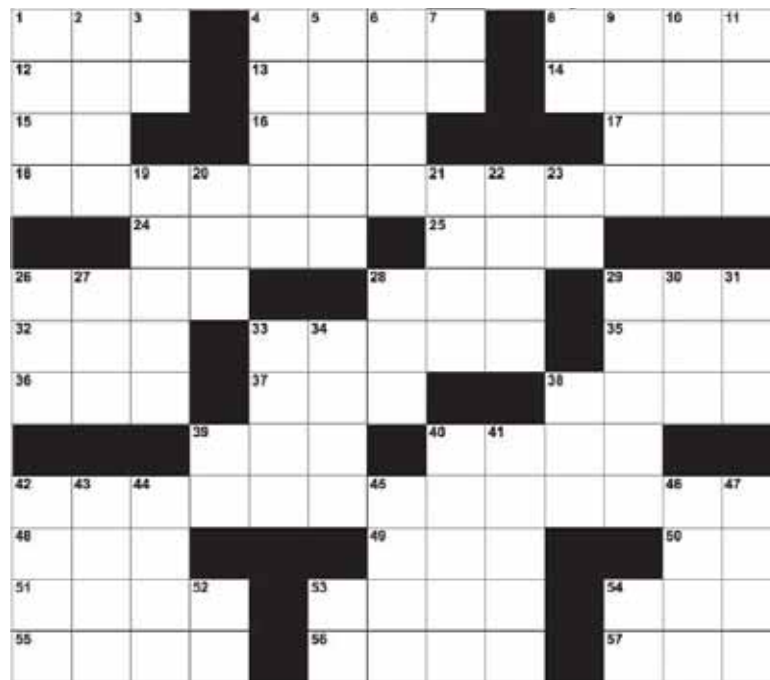
Crossword

Across

- Auger
- Skin
- Star —: Deep Space Nine
- Stage of sleep (abbr.)
- Vicinity
- Peacekeeping grp.
- Battery sz.
- Common suffix
- "Smoking or —?"
- Problem solving technique
- Rose holder
- Urn
- Part of UCLA
- Catty
- de Janeiro
- Runaway singer Shannon
- Vocalized pauses
- Yield
- Jay-Z's genre
- Understand
- Flee from the law
- Balsam and Evergreen
- Charlottetown province (abbr.)
- Use the phone
- Genuinely real
- GPS heading (abbr.)
- NHL legend Bobby
- First two vowels in a sequence
- Orange peel
- Only one time
- Rap sheet abbreviation
- Director Preminger
- Meadows
- Berlin article

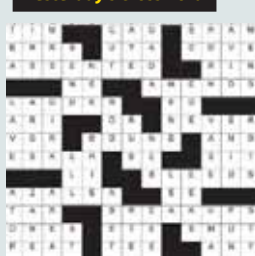
Down

- Spirited horse
- "What Not to —"
- Letters between K and N
- Growing —
- Greeted the day
- Monthly expense



- Apiece (abbr.)
- Actress who starred in Father Dowling Mysteries (init.)
- Indian Queen
- British prep school.
- "King —"
- Cease
- Author Fleming
- Ken or Lena
- Tooth anchor
- Form of address
- "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
- Sooner than, poetically
- Zodiac symbol
- Boring tool
- Corn unit
- CD's predecessor
- Jane Lynch drama
- Precipitation
- Tampa state
- Chemistry measure (abbr.)
- Time frame
- Farm units
- Flying (prefix)
- Condo, e.g.
- Camping necessity
- Pitch
- Trout habitat
- Part of a decade
- "— the Right Thing"
- Chemical suffix
- Billboard use

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	3	4	2	8	5	1
1	4	2	6	7	5	9	3	8
3	5	8	9	6	1	4	2	7
5	3	1	2	8	4	7	6	9
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	5
7	8	6	4	5	9	3	1	2
9	2	5	1	3	8	6	7	4
4	1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8

8			3			9		
9	3						6	5
	7			2		8		
	5		6	7				1
		7				6		
6				5	4		2	
		9		8			1	
7	6						8	4
			1		3			6

Weather

TODAY



MAX: -7°
MIN: -7°

THURSDAY



MAX: -16°
MIN: -18°

FRIDAY



MAX: -11°
MIN: -19°



MICHELE MCDUGALL
WEATHER SPECIALIST

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**



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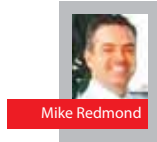
\$20,860



\$44,860



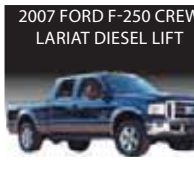
\$23,860



\$26,860



\$34,640



\$23,860



\$16,860



\$22,860



\$10,860



\$32,860



\$14,860



\$7,860



\$19,870



\$31,860



\$14,860



\$13,860



\$25,860



\$19,860



\$33,860



\$38,860



\$58,860



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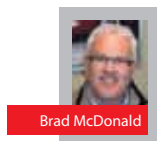


2007 MINI COOPER S #3DT1355A
2008 INFINITI G37 PREMIUM #3JN4502A
2010 GMC TERRAIN SLE #3DR8239A
2004 CHEV CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE #3R19099B

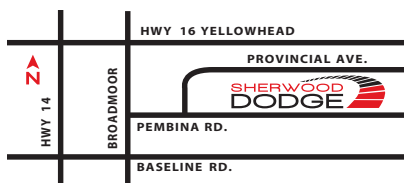
2008 FORD F-150 LTD CREW 4X4 #2R34720B
2009 VW JETTA TDi #2P45915B
2011 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT #2R18393A

2007 CHEV SILVERADO 1500 LTZ Z71 #3R18863A
2010 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING #3TC2241A
2007 MERCEDES S600 AMG #P3269

2011 DODGE DURANGO CITADEL HEMI #2R30263A
2010 ACURA ZDX SH AWD #3TJ7113A
2007 MERCEDES C-280 #2GH1930E



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SALES HOURS:
Mon Thurs. 9am-9pm;
Fri. 9am-6pm; Sat. 9am-6pm;
Sun. 11am-4pm